

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VIENNA 02548 251618Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 /003 W

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P 251453Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5189

UNCLAS VIENNA 2548

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CPRS, AU (NEUMAN, JANE)

SUBJ: PROPERTY: STATUS REPORT CONCERNING
CONFISCATED AUTOMOBILE OWNED BY FATHER
OF JANE NEUMAN.

FOR SCS

RE STATE 064698

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED CASE WITH JANE NEUMAN AND SENIOR
GRAZ, AUSTRIA, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. NEUMAN SAID CAR WAS SEIZED
TWO WEEKS AGO AFTER WHICH SHE BECAME AWARE THAT AUSTRIAN LAW
REQUIRES PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY AND VALUE ADDED TAX ON
MOTOR VEHICLE BEING USED HERE BY PERSON WHO HAS RESIDED IN
AUSTRIAN FOR PERIOD EXCEEDING TWO YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN HERE
TWO YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS.

2. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THEY HAD NO CHOICE UNDER
THE LAW BUT TO SEIZE CAR UNTIL DUTY AND TAX AMOUNTING TO
APPROX. AS 10,000 (ABOUT DOLLARS 620) WERE PAID. IN CASE OF
NON-PAYMENT, CAR WILL BE SOLD IN AUCTION. THEY EMPHASIZED
THAT NORMALLY A FINE IS IMPOSED IN ADDITION TO THE DUTY
AND TAXES. HOWEVER, SINCE MISS NEUMAN MAY HAVE BEEN
MISINFORMED ON LEGAL SITUATION BY LOCAL FRIEND, THEY
DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO LEVY FINE FOR WILLFUL OR NEGLI-
GENT CUSTOMS EVASION.

3. CONGRESSMAN JAMES HOWARD INTERESTED. MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA02548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750104-0094
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750316/aaaaaoai.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPERTY: STATUS REPORT CONCERNING CONFISCATED AUTOMOBILE OWNED BY FATHER
TAGS: CASC, CPRS, AU, (NEUMAN, JANE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006